

\$4,973,674,803,905.53. We are still about \$27 billion away from the \$5 trillion mark, unfortunately, we anticipate hitting this mark sometime later this year or early next year.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,880.15 as his or her share of that debt.

ORIGINAL COSPONSORS OF THE LIBERTAD ACT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the printed record of the October 11 debate contains an error in the listing of original cosponsors of amendment number 2898 to H.R. 927, the Senate substitute version of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1995. For the information of my colleagues, the original cosponsors of the amendment are as follows: Senators DOLE, HELMS, MACK, COVERDELL, GRAHAM, D'AMATO, HATCH, GRAMM, THURMOND, FAIRCLOTH, GREGG, INHOFE, HOLLINGS, SNOWE, KYL, THOMAS, SMITH, LIEBERMAN, WARNER, NICKLES, ROBB, CRAIG, COHEN, BURNS, REID, LOTT, STEVENS, SPECTER, SHELBY, and PRESSLER.

SENATOR CHARLES GRASSLEY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, Senator GRASSLEY is not only an able and dedicated U.S. Senator, but he is also a progressive, scientific, and outstanding farmer. His colleagues in the Senate hold him in high esteem, not only for these qualities but also for his integrity, courage, and ability. We are proud of him and the great service he is rendering our country.

I ask unanimous consent that the article contained in the Hill be printed in the RECORD so that others will learn more about this fine American.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Hill, Oct. 25, 1995]

SENATOR CHARLES GRASSLEY

(By Albert Eisele)

You can't get much more grassroots than Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa).

Early this month, the 62-year-old crusader against federal waste was at the wheel of an International Harvester 1450 tractor, hauling a load of soybeans to a grain elevator near his family farm in northeastern Iowa.

The only working farmer in the Senate, Grassley interrupted his farming chores to issue a press release informing his constituents he had regained his Agriculture Committee seat, which he was forced to give up in January when committee assignments were redistributed after Republicans took control of the Senate.

But last week, Grassley was back in the Senate, behind the closed doors of the Finance Committee helping Republicans work out disagreements over their controversial \$245-billion tax cut package, and then defending that package from Democratic criticism in full committee.

"If you're concerned about balancing the budget, you'll be for this program," Grassley declared as he and his GOP colleagues sent their historic tax package to the Senate floor as part of the even more historic budget reconciliation bill.

Then, using a metaphor appropriate to his Iowa origins and his parochial view of his role in the Senate, once described by Congressional Quarterly as "pigs and pork," Grassley said, "The people of this country are tired of living high on the hog, and not worrying about our children or grandchildren paying for it."

For the man who is the philosophical heir of the late Rep. H. R. Gross (R), the quintessential penny-pinching legislator whom Grassley succeeded in the House in 1974, it was a characteristic moment.

Never hailed as an intellectual giant or an inspiring orator, the easy-going third-term senator has made his name, and compiled a truly imposing campaign record, by balancing the needs of Iowa farmers and small businesses with the national yearning for fiscal discipline in government.

Despite one of the lowest profiles in the Senate, Grassley has managed, by stint of sheer hard work, country-bred political smarts and a low-octane ego, to place himself in the middle of the Senate debate over the big ticket issues of tax cuts, budget balancing and welfare reform at the heart of the Republican revolution.

As a member of the Finance Committee, the number two Republican on the Budget Committee behind Chairman Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), and a member of the House-Senate conference committee on welfare reform which holds its first meeting today, Grassley is perfectly positioned to add to his already impressive electoral achievements in Iowa, where he has never lost a race.

Elected to the state legislature while studying for a doctorate at the University of Iowa—he left school after he was elected and never returned—Grassley took over his family farm after his father died in 1960.

By 1974, when he won a narrow victory over a Democratic opponent to replace the retiring Rep. Gross, Grassley had bought additional acreage—It's now just under 600 acres—and turned the farm over to his son Robin, who still farms it, with weekend help from his father in the fall and spring.

Then, in 1980, after Iowa voters dumped liberal Democratic Sen. Dick Clark in favor of conservative Republican Roger Jepsen two years earlier, Grassley took on Clark's liberal Democratic colleague, John Culver, after winning 90 of the state's 99 counties in the GOP primary.

His emphasis on pocketbook issues and his earnest demeanor, which belied Culver's charges that he was a tool of the Moral Majority and New Right, earned Grassley an unexpectedly comfortable victory with 54 percent of the vote.

Amazingly, for someone whose name and accomplishments are little-known outside of Iowa, and widely discounted inside the Washington Beltway, Grassley has one of the best records as a campaigner of anyone in the Senate. Of the 43 senators who have run for three or more terms, Grassley is the only one, other than John Warner (R-Va.) and two others who ran unopposed, who has significantly improved his electoral margin in each of the last three elections.

After winning 54 percent of the vote in 1980, he easily disposed of his Democratic challenger in 1986 by taking 66 percent of the vote, and crushed his opponent in 1992, highly touted state Sen. Jean Lloyd-Jones, by winning 70 percent of the vote.

The latter victory was one of historic proportions as he carried every single county while winning by the largest statewide margin in the country, and winning more votes than any candidate in the history of the state—President Eisenhower had the old record.

Grassley has an uncanny ability to translate national issues, such as defense fraud,

tax reform, out-of-control government spending, congressional accountability, and international trade—especially for Iowa farm and manufacturing products—into issues of local appeal.

Grassley scored one of his major successes earlier this year when the 104th Congress enacted its first piece of legislation, the Congressional Accountability Act that made Congress subject to the same labor and anti-discrimination laws that apply to all Americans. Grassley has been pushing for such a law since 1989.

But it was his attack on government waste and fraud that first brought him public attention. In 1984, as chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Practices, he publicized the notorious \$47,600 coffee maker bought by the Air Force. Then, in 1990, he won headlines by uncovering Pentagon purchases of \$999 screwdrivers and \$1,868 toilet seats.

Grassley is proudest of two major achievements, passage of the Congressional Accountability Act and his work with Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) in promoting the 1986 "whistle blower" provisions, known as the "qui tam" amendments to the False Claims Act, which enabled the Justice Department to recover more than \$1 billion in civil fraud cases since 1986.

Over breakfast in the Senate Dining Room last week, Grassley, who had a very unIowa-like breakfast—a grapefruit with honey and black coffee—commented, almost apologetically, on the fact that very little major legislation bears his name.

"Sometimes I think the passage of legislation might not necessarily be the best way to measure a person's most important accomplishments," he said. "Sometimes, it's what you might do to stop a bad administrative action or get an amicus brief before the Supreme Court on child pornography."

Grassley has already signed on to Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole's (Kan.) presidential bandwagon, so it's no surprise he predicts Dole will win the bellwether Iowa caucuses next February. But he concedes that Dole will have to beat the 38-percent figure he got in 1986.

And for those who want to bet a long shot, the most successful politician in Iowa history offers this startling advice: "Keep an eye on Phil Gramm [R-Texas]. He's the one to watch."

GAMBLING IMPACT STUDY COMMISSION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, legalized gambling in this country is growing at a phenomenal rate. In 1975, only one State allowed casino gambling. Today, 20 years later, 23 States have legal casino gambling. Forty-eight States have legal gambling in some form. Gambling is a huge industry, but we know very little about its economic and social impacts.

As a result of my deep concerns, I have become a cosponsor of S. 704, the Gambling Impact Study Commission Act. This bill, sponsored by Senators SIMON and LUGAR, will establish an 18-month commission to study the effects of legalized gambling and its impact on local communities. The commission would report its findings to the President and Congress, providing administrative recommendations and proposals for legislation, if called for.

Mr. President, I am a strong believer in the free market and I believe the